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being paid in kind. In that year, Her Highness the late Senior Rani remitted one-fourth of the tax in kind and agreed to levy it in money at the old commutation rate o 6 chuckrams per para. Then again, you received a further concession in March last, when Government, acting on behalf of Her Highness the present Senior Rani, remitted another one-fourth of the tax in kind and agreed to levy that at the new commutation rate of 11 chuckrams per para. That is where you stand now. Before 1065, the entire tax was being paid in paddy; now one-fourth is recovered at 6 chuckrams per para, one-fourth at 11 chuckrams per para, and only the remaining one-half in kind. You now ask that this remainder also should be converted into money. For that, the reply, I give on behalf of Government, is that you have been on the whole treated with consideration both by Her Highness the late Senior Rani as well as by Government acting on behalf of Her Highness the present Senior Rani and that, during the minority of the present Senior Rani, we are not prepared to make any substantial changes in the collection of Her Highness' revenue which are likely to reduce her income.

2. Commutation of grain tax on Sripandaravagai and Kandukrishi lands into money.

Mr. Eswaran Tampi (Member, Eraniel Taluk) requested that the paddy tax levied on Sripandaravagai lands might be commuted into money. He said that Government would not incur any loss thereby and that the concession would be a boon to the ryots concerned and would remove a source of oppression on the part of the lower subordinates. If the commutation rate of 11 chuckrams per para could not be applied to Sripandaravagai lands without a regular enquiry, the member requested that, in the interval, the tax might be realised at the niruk rates obtaining at the time of the harvest.

Mr. N. Mathevan Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) who was to have spoken on the subject as regards Kandukrishi lands was absent.

Dewan's reply.—The whole question of the Sripandaravagai lands was dealt with by Mr. Madhava Rao when he framed his scheme for the conversion of paddy tax into money, and in his Memorandum dated 10th October 1905, he has mentioned the grounds upon which he proceeded. He then recommended to Government that all the Sripandaravagai lands should be excluded from the scheme. His reason was that the rents of these lands, though collected by the Land Revenue staff, did not go into the general revenues of the State, as the lands were owned by the Sri

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Padmanabha Swamy temple and the rents were being separately accounted for. He thought that it would not be proper for Government to go and convert the paddy tax into money in regard to these lands. I have now reconsidered the question and read the papers on the subject and I completely agree with Mr. Madhava Rao's views in the matter. Government are not prepared to make any alteration in regard to the Sripandaravagai lands.

Though I have not been addressed about the Kandukrishi lands, I may mention that the question of their management is being enquired into and will be carefully considered.

3. Revision of the rules about settlement of cherikkal lands.

Mr. K. G. Parameswara Menon (Member, Changanacheri Taluk) urged that the following modifications in the rules *re* settlement of cherikkal lands were necessary in the interests of the holders of such lands:— (1) that the rates of assessment should be reduced, (2) that a reduction of 20 per cent. should be made from the total extent to cover unprofitable areas, (3) that *tharavila* should not be recovered, (4) that the value of trees of below 10 vannams in girth should not be realized, (5) that only one-eighth of the assessment should be levied on Devaswom and Brahmaswom cherikkals, and (6) that the limit of 100 acres fixed for individual registry should be raised, if the restriction could not be wholly removed.

Mr. T. R. Narayana Pillai (Member, Ettumanur Taluk) supported the prayer.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila (Member, Agricultural Association, Changanacheri) presented a memorandum on the subject as the head of 62 cherikkal holders owning 42,000 acres and requested a hearing.

Dewan's reply.— I shall go through this question with Mr. Kuruvila after the Assembly is over. I shall also gladly meet the deputation who wish to see me about it as soon as the Assembly is over.

4. Change in kist months and the number of instalments.

Mr. N. Sankara Pillai (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) requested that the kist months for the Kanni crop might be changed from Kanni and Thulam to Vrischikom and Dhanu. Until the crops were harvested which was done in Vrischikom, they could not realise the money to pay tax. He also prayed for increasing the number of instalments at least from four to six, if not ten as formerly.

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